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16 spring assembly each having a compressed state, said main
17 spring assembly radially expanding said main body of said
18 graft to substantially conform said main body of said graft
19 on an interior wall of the main lumen when said prosthesis
20 assembly is positioned at a particular position in the
21 bifurcated lumen and said main spring assembly is released
22 from said compressed state, said first spring assembly
23 radially expanding said first limb of said graft to
24 substantially conform said first limb of said graft on an
25 interior wall of the first branch lumen when said
26 prosthesis assembly is positioned at the particular
27 position in the bifurcated lumen and said first spring
28 assembly is released from said compressed state, said
29 transluminal arrangement] comprising:

30 main container means for containing [said] in a
31 compressed state a main spring assembly of a prosthesis
32 assembly [in said compressed state], said prosthesis
33 assembly including a bifurcated endovascular graft having
34 a main body and a first and a second limb extending
35 therefrom, said main body including a main bore extending
36 longitudinally therein and having a cranial orifice, said
37 first limb including a first bore extending longitudinally
38 therein, communicating with said main bore, and having a
39 first caudal orifice, said second limb including a second
40 bore extending longitudinally therein, communicating with
41 said main bore and having a second caudal orifice, said
42 main spring assembly radially expanding said main body of
43 said graft to substantially conform said main body of said
44 graft on an interior wall of a main lumen of a bifurcated
45 lumen when said prosthesis assembly is positioned at a
46 particular position in the bifurcated lumen and said main
47 spring assembly is released from said compressed state, the
48 bifurcated lumen including the main lumen and a first and
49 a second branch lumen communicating with and extending from
50 the main lumen;

51 first container means separated from said main
52 container means for containing [said] in a compressed state

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53 a first spring assembly of said prosthesis assembly [in
54 said compressed state], said first spring assembly radially
55 expanding said first limb of said graft to substantially
56 conform said first limb of said graft on an interior wall
57 of the first branch lumen of the bifurcated lumen when said
58 prosthesis assembly is positioned at the particular
59 position in the bifurcated lumen and said first spring
60 assembly is released from said compressed state;

61 retainer means positioned in said main and said first
62 [bores] bore of said graft for retaining said prosthesis
63 assembly at the particular position in the bifurcated lumen
64 while said main container means is withdrawn from said
65 prosthesis assembly releasing said main spring assembly
66 from said compressed state.

Amend claim 4 as follows:

1 4. (Amended) The transluminal arrangement of claim 3
2 wherein said first container means includes a first sheath
3 having a longitudinal bore and attached around said
4 elongated member caudally from said dilator head and
5 wherein said first spring assembly is positioned in said
6 bore of said first sheath.

Amend claim 7 as follows:

1 7. (Amended) The transluminal arrangement of claim 6
2 wherein said main and said first attachment means comprises
3 contraction means for temporarily pulling respectively said
4 main and said first spring [assemblies] assembly inwardly
5 to said compressed state when said prosthesis assembly is
6 positioned within said main sheath.

Amend claim 8 as follows:

1 8. (Amended) The transluminal arrangement of claim [7] 6
2 wherein said main and said first attachment means [further
3 comprise] comprises release means for releasing said
4 prosthesis assembly from said retainer means either during

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5 or after removal of at least one of said main and said
6 first [sheaths] sheath.

Amend claim 9 as follows:

1 9. (Amended) The transluminal arrangement of claim 8
2 wherein at least one of said main and said first attachment
3 means comprises one or more [connectors each in the form
4 of] sutures connected [at one end] to at least one of said
5 main and said first spring [assemblies] assembly and at
6 [the other] one end to inside of said [elongated tube]
7 retainer means via apertures therein, and wherein said
8 release means is positioned within said [elongated tube]
9 retainer means for releasing said [sutures] suture from
10 inside said [elongated tube] retainer means.

Amend claim 10 as follows:

1 10. (Amended) The transluminal arrangement of claim 1
2 further comprising a guide and [a method of positioning
3 said prosthesis assembly at the particular position in the
4 bifurcated lumen, said method comprising] the steps of:
5 providing a first and a second access to the first and
6 the second branch [lumens] lumen, respectively;
7 [providing a] positioning said guide between the first
8 and the second [accesses] access via the first and the
9 second branch [lumens] lumen;
10 positioning said transluminal arrangement at the
11 particular position in the bifurcated [branch] lumen via
12 the first access;
13 withdrawing said main container means from said
14 prosthesis assembly;
15 positioning said second limb of said graft in the
16 second branch lumen with said guide;
17 releasing said retainer means from said prosthesis
18 assembly when positioned at the particular position in the
19 bifurcated lumen; and
20 withdrawing said first container means from said first
21 spring assembly.

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Cancel claim 11.

Amend claim 12 as follows:

1 12. (Amended) A transluminal arrangement for positioning
2 a prosthesis assembly at a particular position in a
3 bifurcated lumen, the bifurcated lumen including a main
4 lumen and a first and a second branch lumen communicating
5 with and extending from the main lumen, said prosthesis
6 assembly including a bifurcated endovascular graft having
7 a main body and a first and a second limb extending
8 therefrom, said main body including a main bore extending
9 longitudinally therein and having a cranial orifice, said
10 first limb including a first bore extending longitudinally
11 therein, communicating with said main bore, and having a
12 first caudal orifice, said second limb including a second
13 bore extending longitudinally therein, communicating with
14 said main bore and having a second caudal orifice, said
15 assembly including a main spring assembly, a first spring
16 assembly, and a second spring assembly each having a
17 compressed state, said main spring assembly radially
18 expanding said main body of said graft to substantially
19 conform said main body of said graft on an interior wall of
20 the main lumen when said prosthesis assembly is positioned
21 at a particular position in the bifurcated lumen and said
22 main spring assembly is released from said compressed
23 state, said first spring assembly radially expanding said
24 first limb of said graft to substantially conform said
25 first limb of said graft on an interior wall of the first
26 branch lumen when said prosthesis assembly is positioned at
27 the particular position in the bifurcated lumen and said
28 first spring assembly is released from said compressed
29 state, said second spring assembly radially expanding said
30 second limb of said graft to substantially conform said
31 second limb of said graft on an interior wall of the second
32 branch lumen when said prosthesis assembly is positioned at
33 a particular position in the bifurcated lumen and said

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34 second spring assembly is released from said compressed
35 state, said transluminal arrangement comprising:
36 main container means for containing said main spring
37 assembly in said compressed state;
38 first container means for containing said first spring
39 assembly in said compressed state;
40 second container means for containing said second
41 spring assembly in said compressed state;
42 main retainer means positioned in said main and said
43 first [bores] bore of said graft for retaining said
44 prosthesis assembly at the particular position in the
45 bifurcated lumen while said main container means is
46 withdrawn from said prosthesis assembly releasing said main
47 spring assembly from said compressed state;
48 first retainer means temporarily attached to said
49 first spring assembly for retaining said first spring
50 assembly in said first container means; and
51 second retainer means temporarily attached to said
52 second spring assembly for retaining said second spring
53 assembly in said second container means.

Amend claim 16 as follows:

1 16. (Amended) The transluminal arrangement of claim 12
2 wherein said main retainer means comprises an elongated
3 member having a dilator head at [the] a distal end thereof,
4 main attachment means for temporarily attaching said main
5 spring assembly to said elongated member, and first
6 attachment means for temporarily attaching said first
7 spring assembly to said elongated member.

Amend claim 17 as follows:

1 17. (Amended) The transluminal arrangement of claim 16
2 further comprising first release means for releasing at
3 least one of said main and said first attachment means
4 either during or after removal of at least one of said main
5 and said first [sheaths] container means.

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Amend claim 19 as follows:

1 19. The transluminal arrangement of claim 12 further
2 comprising a guide and [a method of positioning said
3 prosthesis assembly at the particular position in the
4 bifurcated lumen, said method comprising] the steps of:
5 providing a first and a second access to the first and
6 the second branch [lumens] lumen, respectively;
7 [providing a] positioning said guide between the first
8 and the second [accesses] access via the first and the
9 second branch [lumens] lumen;
10 positioning said transluminal arrangement at the
11 particular position in the bifurcated [branch] lumen via
12 the first access;
13 withdrawing said main container means from said
14 prosthesis assembly;
15 positioning said second limb of said graft in the
16 second branch lumen with said guide;
17 releasing said main, said first, and said retainer
18 means from said prosthesis assembly when positioned at the
19 particular position in the bifurcated lumen;
20 withdrawing said first container means from said first
21 spring assembly; and
22 withdrawing said second container means from said
23 second spring assembly.

Amend claim 20 as follows:

1 20. (Amended) A transluminal arrangement for positioning
2 a prosthesis assembly at a particular position in a
3 bifurcated lumen, the bifurcated lumen including a main
4 lumen and a first and a second branch lumen communicating
5 with and extending from the main lumen, said prosthesis
6 assembly including a bifurcated endovascular graft having
7 a main body and a first and a second limb extending
8 therefrom, said main body including a main bore extending
9 longitudinally therein and having a cranial orifice, said
10 first limb including a first bore extending longitudinally

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11 therein, communicating with said main bore, and having a
12 first caudal orifice, said second limb including a second
13 bore extending longitudinally therein, communicating with
14 said main bore and having a second caudal orifice, said
15 graft including a main spring assembly, a first spring
16 assembly, and a second spring assembly each having a
17 compressed state, said main spring assembly radially
18 expanding said main body of said graft to substantially
19 conform said main body of said graft on an interior wall of
20 the main lumen when said prosthesis assembly is positioned
21 at a particular position in the bifurcated lumen and said
22 main spring assembly is released from said compressed
23 state, said first spring assembly radially expanding said
24 first limb of said graft to substantially conform said
25 first limb of said graft on an interior wall of the first
26 branch lumen when said prosthesis assembly is positioned at
27 the particular position in the bifurcated lumen and said
28 first spring assembly is released from said compressed
29 state, said second spring assembly radially expanding said
30 second limb of said graft to substantially conform said
31 second limb of said graft on an interior wall of the second
32 branch lumen when said prosthesis assembly is positioned at
33 a particular position in the bifurcated lumen and said
34 second spring assembly is released from said compressed
35 state, said transluminal arrangement comprising:

36 a main sheath with said prosthesis assembly positioned
37 in a bore of said main sheath;

38 main container means for containing said main spring
39 assembly in said compressed state;

40 a first sheath with said first spring assembly
41 positioned in a bore of said first sheath;

42 first container means for containing said first spring
43 assembly in said compressed state;

44 a second sheath with said second spring assembly
45 positioned in a bore of said second sheath;

46 second container means for containing said second
47 spring assembly in said compressed state;

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48 an elongated member positioned in said main and said
49 first [bores] bore of said graft;
50 main attachment means for temporarily attaching said
51 main spring to said elongated member;
52 first attachment means for temporarily attaching said
53 first spring to said elongated member, said main and said
54 first attachment [forming] means for retaining said
55 prosthesis assembly at the particular position in the
56 bifurcated lumen while said main sheath is withdrawn from
57 said prosthesis assembly [releasing said main spring
58 assembly from said compressed state];
59 first retainer means temporarily attached to said
60 first spring assembly for retaining said first spring
61 assembly in said first container means;
62 second retainer means temporarily attached to said
63 second spring assembly for retaining said second spring
64 assembly in said second container means;
65 first release means for releasing at least one of said
66 main and said first attachment means either during or after
67 removal of at least one of said main and said first
68 [sheaths] sheath; and
69 second release means temporarily attached to said
70 second spring assembly for releasing said second spring
71 assembly when positioned in the second branch lumen of the
72 bifurcated lumen.

Remarks

In the Office action of February 10, 1994, Paper No. 12, claims 1-20 are pending of which claims 10, 11, and 19 were withdrawn from consideration, claims 12-15 were allowed, claims 1-9 were rejected, and claims 16-18 and 20 were objected to. Applicants' election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 10 was acknowledged and made final. Claims 4-9, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter sought to be patented. Claims 1-4 were